

We claim:

1. A method for reducing excess residual process alcohol in valacyclovir hydrochloride having excess residual process alcohol comprising the step of contacting valacyclovir hydrochloride having excess residual process alcohol with a humid gas at ambient pressure.  
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2. The method of claim 1 wherein the humid gas is humid air.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the humid air has a relative humidity of at least about 15%.  
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4. The method of claim 3 wherein the humid air has a relative humidity of at least about 50%.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the humid air has a relative humidity of at least about 75%.  
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6. The method of claim 1 wherein the contacting is static.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the contacting is dynamic.  
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8. The method of claim 7 wherein the contacting is in a fluidized bed apparatus.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein, after the exposing step, the residual process alcohol in the exposed valacyclovir hydrochloride is less than about 5000 ppm on a weight basis.  
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10. The method of claim 9 wherein the residual process alcohol in the exposed valacyclovir hydrochloride is about 1000 ppm or less on a weight basis.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the process alcohol is ethanol.

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12. The method of claim 1 wherein the process alcohol is *iso*-propanol.

13. A method for reducing excess residual process *iso*-propanol in valacyclovir hydrochloride having excess residual process *iso*-propanol comprising the step of  
10 contacting valacyclovir hydrochloride having excess residual process *iso*-propanol with humid air at ambient pressure in a fluidized bed apparatus, wherein the relative humidity of the air is at least about 15%.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the relative humidity of the air is at least about  
15 50%.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the residual *iso*-propanol in the exposed valacyclovir hydrochloride is about 5000 ppm or less on a weight basis.

20 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the residual *iso*-propanol in the exposed valacyclovir hydrochloride is about 1000 ppm or less on a weight basis.

17. A method for reducing to about 1000 ppm on a weight basis or less the residual process alcohol in valacyclovir hydrochloride having greater than 1000 ppm on a weight  
25 basis residual process alcohol comprising the step of contacting, at ambient pressure, the valacyclovir hydrochloride having greater than 1000 ppm on a weight basis residual process alcohol with humid gas having a relative humidity of at least about 15%.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the humid gas has a relative humidity of at least about 50%.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the contacting is in a fluidized bed apparatus.